

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the specification, as follows:

Page 1, lines 1-2, replace the title paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

Title: ~~Metal wire coated with a layer of metal material intended to reinforce elastomeric materials and method for producing the same~~ METAL WIRE AND CORD FOR REINFORCING AN ELASTOMERIC MATERIAL AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE METAL WIRE AND CORD

Page 1, line 3, delete the paragraph “DESCRIPTION” in its entirety.

Page 1, line 4, add the following paragraph in the form of a section heading after the title “METAL WIRE AND CORD FOR REINFORCING AN ELASTOMERIC MATERIAL AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE METAL WIRE AND CORD” and prior to the paragraph beginning “The present invention refers to a method . . . .”

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Page 1, line 4, add the following new paragraph after the heading “CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS” added above and prior to the paragraph beginning “The present invention refers to a method . . . .”

This application is a national-phase entry under 35 U.S.C. § 371 from International Application No. PCT/EP2003/014810, filed December 22, 2003, in the European Patent Office, the content of which is relied upon and incorporated herein by reference. Additionally, Applicants claim the right of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) - (d) based on International Application No. PCT/IT02/00823, filed December 23, 2002, in the Italian Patent Office.

Page 1, line 4, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section heading after the cross-reference to related applications added above and prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “The present invention refers to a method . . . .”

#### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, line 5, replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

Field of the ~~invention~~ Invention

Page 1, line 17, replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

~~Prior art~~ Description of the Related Art

Page 3, line 11, replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

~~Summary of the invention~~ SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 17, line 11, replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

~~Brief description of the drawings~~ BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 17, line 22, replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

~~Detailed description of the preferred embodiments~~ DETAILED  
DESCRIPTION OF THE EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

Add a new page 31 after the claims, adding the following ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE. A new, separate page 31 including the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE is enclosed.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A metal wire for reinforcing an elastomeric material includes a metal core and a metal coating layer. The core includes a predetermined initial diameter. A method for producing the wire includes submitting the core to at least one surface treatment, thermally treating the core, depositing the coating layer on the core, and drawing the metal-coated metal core. The at least one surface treatment predisposes a surface of the core to being coated with the coating layer. The coating layer is deposited on the core to a predetermined initial thickness using a plasma

deposition technique. The metal-coated metal core is drawn until the core includes a final diameter smaller than the predetermined initial diameter and the coating layer includes a final thickness smaller than the predetermined initial thickness. A metal cord for reinforcing an elastomeric material and a method for producing the metal cord are also disclosed.